

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

In Paragraph 0042:

[0042] The resulting mixture or combination of hydrocarbon petroleum distillate, surfactant package and additives, and purified water are fed into an emulsification station 70. The emulsification station 70 includes an aging reservoir 72, and emulsifier. The aging reservoir 72 includes an inlet 74, an outlet 76 and a high volume chamber 78 or reservoir. Aging is a process where the blended components of the emulsion are agitated sufficiently to prevent separation. The purpose of the aging is to provide a means for any final reactions between the added components to be completed. The length of time for the aging process can be from about 1 minute to any number of days. The temperature of the aging composition is normally the same as the temperature of the hydrocarbons that are being fed to the aging system. The aging step allows for sufficient reaction time for the components to be fed optimally, thus allowing for a minimal amount of reagent usage. The preferred embodiment of the blending system 12 operates using a three-minute aging time for the aqueous fuel emulsion. In other words, a blending system operating at an output flow rate of about 15 gallons per minute would utilize a 45-gallon tank as an aging reservoir. The incoming stream of hydrocarbon petroleum distillate, fuel emulsion additives, and purified water are fed into the aging reservoir 72 at a location that preferably provides continuous agitation to the reservoir. The preferred embodiment of the blending system 12 also includes a high shear pump 80 and a pressure regulating valve 32 disposed downstream of the aging reservoir 72 which provides the final aqueous fuel emulsion at the blending system outlet 14. Figure 2 illustrates an alternative embodiment.